

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS) AND TRIBAL
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING
SUMMARY**

**February 22, 2017
744 P Street, OB9-Room 1804
Sacramento, CA
9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

This document summarizes the key issues discussed at the meeting between Tribal TANF Administrators and leaders and CDSS representatives on February 22, 2017.

A summary of the prior Tribal TANF Administrators' meeting on November 2, 2016, was reviewed and approved without edits.

General Updates

Welfare-to-Work (WTW) Division Deputy Director, Todd Bland, provided updates regarding the State Budget and Tribal TANF program.

State Budget

The Governor's proposed solutions for the budget's shortfall of \$1.6 billion do not include reductions to established programs, but ceasing new programs instead. Thus, the implementation of the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program will not be moving forward.

The allocation in the Governor's Budget for the CalWORKs program is caseload driven. The CalWORKs caseload is projected to decline to 450,000 cases in FY 2017-18. The CalFresh caseload is not decreasing as fast as the CalWORKs caseload.

Tribal TANF Program

No impacts to MOE funds are expected for the Tribal TANF program.

CalWORKs Program Updates

CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau Chief, Elaine Ward, provided information related to SB 164, updates to most recent CalWORKs program changes, and expressed her concern regarding Tribal land affected by the weather.

SB 164 Public postsecondary education: priority registration for Tribal TANF recipients was introduced by Senator McGuire on January 19, 2017.

Existing law requires that each community college shall grant priority enrollment to any student who is a CalWORKs recipient. This bill would also require granting priority enrollment to students who receive Tribal TANF aid. "Tribal TANF recipient" means a recipient of aid pursuant to WIC Section 10553.25.

Tribal Administrators have already sent support letters to Senator McGuire. A broader definition of the TANF recipient is under discussion.

Updates to CalWORKs Program Changes

Effective January 1, 2017, CalWORKs grant computations will no longer exclude the needs of children born into families who have been aided from more than ten months. It is estimated that 120,000 children will be affected by the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) repeal.

SB 947 Public assistance: personal interviews enacted legislation to provide alternatives to in-person interviews for CalWORKs applicants, such as telephonically or other electronic means. (ACL 16-119)

AB 2062 prohibits County Welfare Departments (CWDs) to assess an overpayment (OP) if the CalWORKs recipient reported timely the change in income, and the county was unable before the first of the month following the change, to provide a 10 days' notice of the reduction/termination of benefits. (ACL 16-120)

Inter County Transfer (ICT) workgroup is drafting an ACL providing instructions for the counties on the new ICT process.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

CalWORKs Eligibility and Tribal TANF Analyst, Elena Dutulescu presented briefly about State and Federal EITCs, which are special tax breaks for working individuals and/or families who work full or part time. Detailed information regarding these credits can be found at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/PUB428.pdf>

CDSS Tribal Affairs Team

Presenters: Mary Risling, Tribal Consultant, and Kevin Neidich, Analyst, from Child Welfare Policy & Program Development Bureau

The Tribal Affairs team was created to comply with Governor's Brown Executive Order B-10-11 issued in September, 2011, and to serve as the hub for tribal related work at the CDSS. This new Tribal Affairs team will consist of two analysts, a Tribal coordinator, and the CDSS Director serving as the CDSS Tribal Liaison. The Tribal Affairs team shall:

- Encourage CDSS communication and consultation with California Indian Tribes regarding tribal welfare issues
- Establish a Tribal Consultation Policy (TCP) to encourage collaboration, information sharing, and collective decision making between the tribes and CDSS
- Centralize authority between CDSS divisions
- Outline a process to submit tribal requests to the appropriate divisions within the department
- Reallocate resources and disperse tribal work throughout the department

A notification letter was developed to explain the role of the Tribal Affairs team and to invite tribes for feedback and input regarding the job description for the recruitment of the Tribal Coordinator. The letter was emailed to the chairmen of all federally recognized tribes in California.

The updated Tribal Consultation Policy takes into consideration the importance of the tribal sovereignty and aims to create an effective and meaningful collaboration, and to achieve durable outcomes. It is anticipated this policy will be released by the end of March, 2017.

Other Updates

CalWORKs Eligibility and Tribal TANF Manager, Ryan Tsukiji, informed TTAs that our Tribal TANF Consultation Guidelines will come before the new TCP. Current Tribal TANF Consultation Guidelines were handed out. Tribes will recommend changes to the current Tribal TANF Consultation Guidelines and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ryan also informed that the state and federal time limit exemption applies even if the unemployment rate data of 50% or higher on tribal reservations is not submitted timely by the tribes.

Ryan reminded the TTAs that the agenda items will be submitted to Elena instead of Roxanne. He also announced that a new analyst, Linda Truong, will join the Tribal TANF team unit in March.

NEXT TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS MEETING

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 9:00 am – 12 pm (Building 9, Room 1804)

CDSS does not foresee any parking issues for the May meeting at this time. We will provide an update when the agenda is released.

CDSS ACTION ITEMS

- Updating our Tribes' contact list.
- TTAs participation in future CAT meetings.
- Inviting the CDSS Tribal Affairs Team to our next meeting on May 9, 2017.
- Working towards a presentation on MEDS access provided by a Social Security Administration representative.
- Upon availability, will provide an email with direction on how to subscribe to web access for ACLs/ACINs.